more projects are already functioning. No discrimination is done in this regard.

**Schedule Caste status to Bengali community in Uttaranchal**

1313. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI BRINDRA KARAT:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

whether Schedule Caste status was granted to Namasudra, Pod and Majhi Castes within Bengali community who had migrated to Orissa;

if so, the reason why ethnographic details is being sought again for them from Uttaranchal Government by the Registrar General of India;

whether the State Government has furnished the details as sought by RGI; and

if not, the pro-active steps taken by Government to give effect to the proposal to include the above communities as SC, as recommended by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) As per the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, as amended from time to time, only 'Namasudra' has been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in Orissa.

Since in accordance with Article 341(1) of the Constitution, the list of Scheduled Castes are State/Union Territory specific, therefore, the ethnographic information has been sought from Government of Uttaranchal to ascertain whether these communities fulfill the criteria followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Caste.

No, Sir.

The appropriate action is taken as per the approved modalities.

National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities

1314. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether term of the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities has been increased, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The term of the National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities has been extended beyond 20.9.2005 upto 30th April 2006.

**Projects for Scheduled Tribes**

†1315. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that various projects for upliftment of the persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes have been implemented in various States;

if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

the amount allocated for each project and the actual amount spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) In addition to various social sectors and infrastructure development programmes/schemes being implemented by various sectoral Ministries, which also cover/benefit tribal areas/people, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored schemes/ programmes for the socio-economic development of the tribal people in the country. These schemes are related to income and employment generation, infrastructure development, educational development and improvement in literacy of the tribal people. There are some schemes, which pertain to ensuring fair price for minor forest produce besides promotion of voluntary efforts for the upliftment of scheduled tribes. These schemes/programmes are implemented in States/Union Territories and the funds are released to State Governments who identify individual projects/ schemes and implement the same for upliftment of tribal people. In case of voluntary efforts, funds are released to NGOs on the basis of recommendations made by the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The State-wise release of funds under different schemes and the State-wise and project-wise details of funds released to Non Governmental Organisations during the last three years is given in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.